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THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY NEWSWIRE

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Reasoning behind new ticket policy

BY TARA DIXON
Senior News Writer

After rolling out of bed late Saturday morning, you remember there's a basketball game in a couple of hours.

You and your roommate head over to the Cintas Center to pick up your tickets, then go get brunch before going into the arena to cheer on the team.

Is this scenario now a scene of the past? Maybe.

A source of controversy and confusion among students is the new student ticket policy for basketball games.

Students now need to pick up tickets in advance before game day if they want to be ensured admission.

The new policy was discussed in the athletic department over late summer and early fall.

The objective was to find a way to fill up the student section which had not been filled to capacity for many games.

"We took a look at student attendance the first year in the Cintas Center," said Mike Dunn, director of marketing. "There were 14 home games. The student section was not full for five of the 14 home dates."

Some of those five dates fell over the semester break, so the lack of student attendance could be understood.

"We went to year 2. Again, there were 14 home games. This time nine were not full. That's where it became a problem," said Dunn.

The 2002-03 season, the third in the Cintas Center, again saw nine of 14 home games with a student section that wasn't full.

"Of 42 home games, 39 were sold out to the general public," Dunn said. "We had opposing demands. The general population was demanding tickets, but our own students weren't filling up the student section," said Barry Burns, ticket manager at the Cintas Center.

This season, 12 of the 13 home games are already sold out to the general public.

"We've heard complaints from season ticket holders who want extra tickets and from fans who see

the empty seats on television. This is a way to address that," Burns said.

"We wanted to create a policy that makes students accountable. Now if students don't utilize their tickets, we can sell them to the general public," said Dunn.

Student pick-up times are generally Monday through Wednesday before a Saturday game.

If there are tickets left over at the end of the designated time, they can be sold to the general public. "It gives us about 72 hours to sell the tickets so we don't have open seats," said Dunn.

The hope is that it won't come to that. "First and foremost we want the student section to be filled by students. That is ideal, but it hasn't been the case," said Dunn.

"We had opposing demands. The general population was demanding tickets, but our own students weren't filling up the student section."

— Barry Burns
Cintas Center Ticket Manager

"It's a better atmosphere for the crowd and especially the players," Burns said.

In addition to having empty seats, a problem for certain games has been not having enough.

"When we have been overfilled, we have been able to issue standing-room tickets for big games for students to go to the top level and find a place to stand. The fire marshal has said that's no longer an option," said Burns.

Now there will be no standing-room tickets. Instead, students will be turned away.

"I think it's better to do that a few days in advance than right before a game," said Burns. "We'd rather deal with that a few days prior rather than right before the game. It's just a bad situation," said Dunn.

"If students don't get tickets, it also gives them the opportunity to get together and watch the game with friends rather than heading back to the dorm angry."

With only two exhibition games and the BCA Tournament at home so far, the policy is still new and unfamiliar.

The true test will be the Jan. 17 game against St. Joseph's, when students will have returned from the semester break.

"St. Joe's is a good team, ranked in the top 20. There will be high interest for this game, and if students wait until the day of the game, they won't get tickets," said Dunn.

"Once the pick-up period ends, that doesn't mean you can no longer get student tickets," said Dunn. "Everyone has fair game to them. You don't lose your right to a free student ticket, but the general public is free to buy them."

There has been some discontent among students regarding the new policy. "It's unfair that they're taking our tickets and selling them to the general public for a profit," said junior Jennifer Koetter.

"They wouldn't take unused tickets from season ticket holders and sell them. The worst part is that now we have to plan a week in advance to go to a game, and lots of people don't plan that far ahead. It takes away from the whole experience of going to games."

This policy will not be in effect for the Crosstown Shootout.

The annual contest for Queen City bragging rights between Xavier and the University of Cincinnati will be at the Cintas Center this year, and this intense rivalry is one that the athletic department understands most students want to witness.

"We understand that for traditional four-year students, there are only two chances to go, so we'll try to gear it so the upperclassmen have a better opportunity to go," said Dunn.

The department is still working on finalizing a procedure for student tickets for this game and will make an official announcement later this year.

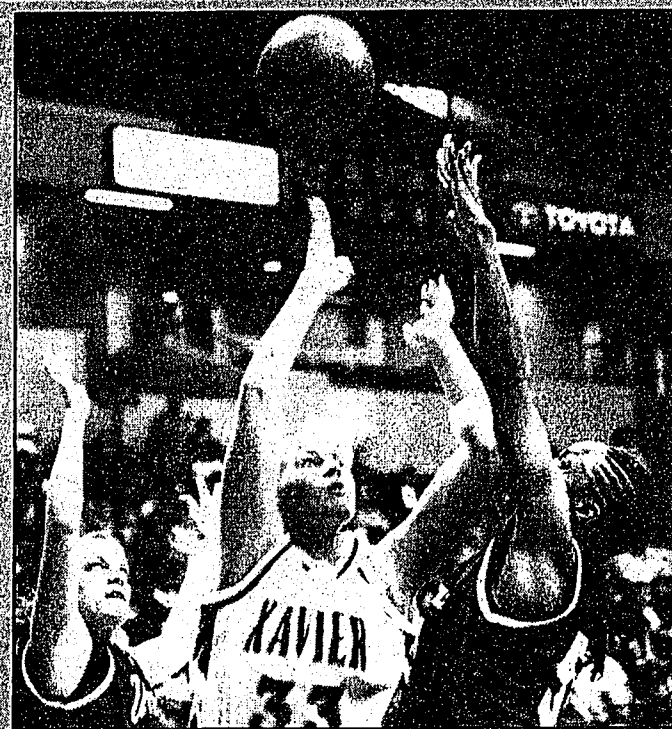


PHOTO TAKEN BY BRIAN ANGOLIA

Sophomore Tara Boothe helped the Muskies take home the Provident Bank Invitational with her 23-point performance against Central Michigan

Human Resources Club now official

BY RACHEL FISCHER
Contributing Writer

Another club has been added to SGA's club roster: the Human Resources Club, headed by junior Mike Gravelle.

"I saw a need to get more people aware of the Human Resource majors and minors. Right now there are about 12 majors and minors involved in HR and I want to get more people interested in having Human Resources as a major," said Gravelle.

"The Human Resource club will provide Human Resource majors and other Xavier students career guidance and networking opportunities in the business community, via guest speakers, involvement in the Greater Cincinnati Human Resource Association, and job shadowing programs," said Gravelle. "The primary purpose of the Human Resource Club is to help increase students' marketability in the job market."

The other officers of the club are senior vice president Kevin Gravett, junior secretary Cara Rush, and junior treasurer Jenn Hitz.

The officers are all Human Re-

source majors. A human resources professor, Dr. Herve Queneau is the club's advisor.

The club has already had a few meetings this semester with key speakers discussing career strategies and insights into the field of Human Resources.

The club is associated with The Greater Cincinnati Human Resource Association (GCHRA). The club members can sit in GCHRA meetings and listen to current issues being discussed within Human Resources. This also provides students the ability to network with professionals from the GCHRA and become a little more acquainted with careers one can pursue with a Human Resource major or minor.

Next semester, the HR club plans to work with a non-profit organization to provide Human Resource services. This project will benefit the organization, and provide students with hands-on experience.

The club also wants to continue to have speakers come to talk to the club about their experiences in finding jobs in Human Resources, and to promote awareness to Xavier students about the Human Resource field.

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NEWS:

Visiting professor tells
holocaust story

PAGE 2

OP-ED:

Newsire wishlist

PAGE 4

SPORTS:

Sarajlija lights up High
Point

PAGE 6

DIVERSIONS:

Tom Cruise turns
Samurai

PAGE 7

BRIEFS

Lisa Degenhart, Editor
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Senior movie night

On Friday there will be a movie night for seniors at the Newport AMC. One-hundred tickets will be available between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. The tickets are only good for movies that have been released for at least 9-10 days. If you have any questions, email the senior board at seniorboard@yahoo.com.

South Asian Society Meeting

The South Asian Society is holding an introductory meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, on the second floor of the Gallagher Center. One of the club's advisors, Dr. Hem Raj Joshi, a professor in the mathematics department, among others, will be preparing authentic food for everyone who attends.

Holocaust survivor educates students

ABBY COLICH

Contributing Writer

Dr. Yaffa Eliach, a renowned author and Holocaust survivor/activist, is teaching an undergraduate course called "Literature of the Holocaust" and a graduate course called "Jewish Town Life in Europe" this semester at Xavier.

"I'm very impressed with the students. I love the students. I love the classes. I love the discussions and reactions to the videos," said Eliach of her experience at Xavier.

Eliach assigned students from her Xavier classes to interview Holocaust survivors and death camp liberators, which she hopes to use in order to compile a book about the history of Cincinnati. Eliach did a similar project with students in Virginia which resulted in the publication of *To Life: Stories of Courage and Survival*.

Eliach survived the Holocaust as a child in Lithuania by hiding in caves and attics with her family. Her life since has been dedicated to educating people around the world

about the Holocaust and of the many people it impacted.

Eliach, who is serving as the current Brueggeman Center for Dialogue's Ecumenical and Inter-religious Chair, is a pioneering scholar of Holocaust studies in the United States.

Her accomplishments include founding the first Center for Holocaust Studies in the United States, creating the "Tower of Life" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., as well as publishing multiple books.

Eliach also served on President Carter's Holocaust commission and worked with several presidents in order to help develop education about the Holocaust in the United States.

The "Tower of Life" is a three-story exhibit of 1,600 pictures of people from the Jewish shtetl (a small village typical of Eastern Europe) of Eishyshok prior to the Holocaust.

Eliach's book, *There Once Was a World*, which was a National Book Award finalist, also chronicles the history of the shtetl of Eishyshok

where she lived as a child with 3,500 other Jews prior to the Holocaust.

Eliach's book, *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*, won the Christopher Award and has been translated into many languages.

Perhaps Eliach's most impressive project yet is the construction of a life-size replica of a shtetl in Israel which is expected to be completed in 10 years. This will model the Eastern European life, culture and history that was lost in the Holocaust.

Eliach is also working on an exhibit about Pope John Paul II's relationships with Jewish people throughout his life. She hopes to have this project, which will be exhibited around the world, completed in time for the pope's birthday in May.

Eliach was named "Woman of the Year" in 1995 by CBS. She notes that it is her ability to "always, always focus on life, even in the most difficult situations" to which she owes to her greatest accomplishments and motivation. Eliach was also awarded the Holocaust Humanitarian Award in 2001 and the Eternal Flame Award in 1999.

"I am delighted that Dr. Eliach could spend a semester at Xavier," said Dr. William Madges, chair of the theology department. "It is a tremendous opportunity for both students and faculty to learn more about Jewish life prior to the Holocaust and to learn about stories of survival and hope during the Holocaust."

Eliach taught literature and history in the area of Judaic studies for several years at Brooklyn College, from where she has recently retired in order to be able to accept more invitations to teach and lecture elsewhere around the world.

"I am a great believer in togetherness," Eliach says. "We must focus on togetherness in the United States. We must teach the Holocaust properly so that we don't make any of the mistakes that were made in Europe."

Eliach will be teaching at the University of Miami in Florida next semester. She hopes to continue to publish more books in the future in addition to her current projects.

Art exhibit spreads awareness

SARA THOMAS

Contributing Writer

The Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati is holding an art exhibit on the Xavier campus through the end of January.

Patients in the early to middle stages of dementia in the Alzheimer's Association's "Memories in the Making" program created the paintings for the exhibits.

A junior at Northern Kentucky University took photographs to tell the story of her relationship with her father who has

Alzheimer's disease, according to Joan Hock, coordinator of the "Memories in the Making" program.

There are about 20 paintings and 10 photographs on display.

Hock said the purpose of bringing the exhibit to campus is to increase awareness of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Patients create the paintings, because the process gives them an opportunity for memory stimulation, a sense of well-being, and increased self esteem through emphasizing some of their strengths.

"Even though a person does have Alzheimer's, they do have ways to

express themselves," said Hock. "They can express themselves through visual art, even though their verbal and organizational skills are decreasing."

The paintings were done by members of the program from all 17 sites in southern Ohio and parts of Indiana and Kentucky.

"Creating the paintings allows people with Alzheimer's to create a visual legacy by giving them a means to express themselves," said Hock.

Members of the program meet weekly, and there are approximately 90 participants.

The Alzheimer's Association also hires artists to work at the different sites of the program with members.

According to Hock, they are people with some type of background in art, whether it may be personal experience, art education or other training. The artists who assist the "Memories in the Making" members also have an understanding of dementia diseases, which helps them to work specifically with people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Along with the artwork, there is information available at the exhibit about Alzheimer's disease.

There is no cost to view the display, and anyone who is interested may see it in the main hall of the Schiff Family Conference Center.

The Cincinnati group responsible for the exhibit is the only local Alzheimer's chapter. They provide the "Memories in the Making" program to those diagnosed with Alzheimer's free of charge, but an initial screening is required.

For more information about the Memories in the Making program, contact Joan Hock or Clarissa Rentz at 721-4284.

Police Notes

December 1, 7:20 p.m. — A resident student reported her vehicle was struck by another unknown vehicle over break in the Commons lot.

December 4, 10:30 a.m. — A non-student was arrested for shoplifting in the bookstore. The suspect stole more than \$250 of merchandise over the last three days.

December 4, 11:48 a.m. — A student reported derogatory graffiti in the breezeway of Elet Hall.

December 6, 2:52 a.m. — An RA in Husman Hall reported damage to the building while making rounds, including a table destroyed and a bulletin board ripped off a wall.

December 6, 10:05 a.m. — A Cintas Center visitor inadvertently struck another visitor's car in the C2 parking lot.

December 6, noon — A student worker in the McDonald Library reported annoying phone calls from an unknown male subject.

December 6, 12:30 p.m. — Two Cintas Center visitors were involved in a two-car auto accident. There was minor damage and no injuries.

December 7, 1:30 a.m. — Campus Police and Residence Life investigated a possible fight in the Village. Several students were involved in an altercation about a party being broken up. The matter was referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

December 7, 2:45 a.m. — A resident student reported harassing phone calls from an unknown male caller.

Police Note of the Week

December 6, 6:15 p.m. — Campus Police and Residence Life investigated students in Husman Hall drinking and throwing water balloons out of the window. The matter was referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Campus News wants to wish you good luck on exams and a great Christmas Break.

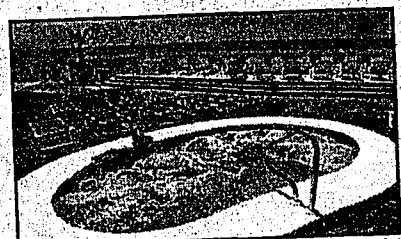


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- STAFF EDITORIAL -

Campus pipe dreams

Since it is the season for giving, we at *the Newswire* thought we'd fill you in on some of the things that students might like to see as additions on or around campus.

Although the Gallagher Center has provided great additions for student activity, the selection of food isn't so diverse. Maybe a Chipotle on campus would spice things up a bit! For you night owls out there, how about a 24-hour food source opened not only during finals week but all semester long?

Many students complain about the housing situation on campus. Considering upperclassmen are not guaranteed on-campus housing, students living on campus next semester may benefit from more housing options. Another dorm would probably lead to less stress for all students dreaming of sugarplums and communal bathrooms at XU.

How many times do you get the craving for a big bag of chips only to find out that the only on-campus places selling or vending them have only single serving or double serving sizes? A convenience mart on campus would greatly reduce the walk to get that big bag of chips and a 128-oz. cup of soda to wash them down.

Now let's get down to the real meat of what students on campus really want. How about a football team? Nothing drains funds and squanders budgets quite like the old pigskin squad. Everyone knows

Xavier University has been undefeated since 1973, how about we start a perfect winless streak to nicely complement the unbeaten one?

Because tropical fish are the only animals allowed on campus, we thought it would be beneficial if there was a 24-hour petting zoo provided so that students could get the enjoyment of a family activity.

Is it just us, or is one of the most common sports played on campus Frisbee? Dubbed an activity for hippies, this sport involves too much pacifism. We would like to see a little more contact involved with sports that are played on the malls. Nothing is more enjoyable than seeing heads getting knocked off while you're walking to and from class.

Not often does one put things on a wish list that they'd like omitted from their life. But one thing that we students can do without is the familiar Cintas Center voice that lets us know every 30 seconds there is an event in the building. Sure the spectators' safety and security is of "utmost importance" to the school, but do we need to know about it so often?

That's our list. Just some suggestions we thought would benefit campus life.

Have a safe and joyous holiday!
~ the Newswire staff

"One thing that we students can do without is the familiar Cintas Center voice that lets us know every 30 seconds there is an event in the building."

Got wasted milk?

Today, SGA is putting on an event to raise money for the International Heifer Project. The Heifer project is an organization that raises money to buy livestock for families and villages around the world with the hopes that through breeding these animals, the families and/or villages will become self-sufficient. The fundraiser on the greenspace today is a milk drinking contest with the expectation that the contestants will vomit the milk they are trying to consume. Needless to say, much of the milk at this event is going to waste.

I find it hypocritical and repulsive for an organization whose goal is to end hunger to be involved in a fundraiser in which so much food is being wasted. People around the world hold food in much higher esteem than the West, in part because food for developed countries is more readily avail-

able. The very idea of wasting food in these other cultures, however, is unheard of. One of the reasons developing countries have so little is because industrial and developed countries have, waste and refuse to share their resources and knowledge with developing countries. Even though the goal is to help these people, behavior such as this shows how little we understand and empathize with third world countries.

Some might argue, however, that the ends justify the means. I respond by saying the ends never justify the means. Good cannot be sacrificed to obtain more good. It is only through good that truth and justice can come. When we are brought before God, we will not be asked what we accomplished, but what we strove for and in the manner we strove.

—Khalil El-Bathy
Class of '05

Overlooking poverty

About a week ago, I was having an interesting conversation with one of my professors concerning the terrible poverty existing throughout the world and how unaware our nation is of this problem. After considering this, I had an even sadder realization. The awareness amongst the American people concerning the poverty existing in our very own country is lacking. Where awareness does exist, it is often easily avoided.

Over the past half century, we have systematically built our cities to enable the rich and middle-class to move out of the city into suburbs. They shop in the suburbs, are entertained in the suburbs, and live in the suburbs. When one does have to go into the city, he or she is able to avoid the lower-class neighborhoods by zipping through them on an interstate where the walls and fences on either side block any swaying eyes from catching a glimpse of poverty. When a person travels to his or her office downtown, he or she parks in a garage and accesses his or her office through a sky walk in order to protect himself or herself from socio-economic mingling.

Consider Music Hall as another example. It is a damn shame the nicest and best place to see theater and music in Cincinnati is in the middle of Over the Rhine. By building a parking garage off of Central Parkway, a major thoroughfare where little poverty is (at least compared to Elm St. which Music Hall faces), and a sky walk to the back of Music Hall, the city has been able to keep the rich theatergoers from mingling with those residing in Washington Park across the street. It is incredible

how, due to the fears of the upper classes, the beauty of the building is lost to those who use it (how can beauty exist in something if it is not seen?).

Many people might say I am pessimistic or even worse, liberal. They would point out that the sky walk is there for quick access and to protect those getting to their offices from the weather. While true, I believe items can have multiple purposes and whether or not inventions such as sky walks, interstates, and suburbs were intended for this, they are truly ripping our country apart and causing the economic gap to become more insulting than before.

I notice that many people like to end editorials with a call to arms. But what good is that going to do in this case? Children who are raised in the suburbs, who are taken to their exclusive schools in SUVs, who are dropped off at the local mall with handfuls of cash are going to do the same for their own children. In America today, people feel they have done their duty to society by working at soup kitchens during the holiday season. I cannot conceive of what would change the minds of people in order that they understand the injustice that is occurring.

So continue your way of life, feel empowered by the size of your car, ignore common courtesies when your cell phone rings, be content with defining yourselves through your possessions, find kinship through drunkenness, be over emotional about your petty grievances, turn a blind eye to the poor, and have a very happy holiday season. Sláinte, sonas agus beartas chugat!

—Brian Ray
Class of '06

And on a side note...

I would like to commend the editors of the school pamphlet known as *the Newswire*. Specifically, the sports editors and writers are simply amazing. I am sure I am not alone in saying that when I read articles in other, lesser publications, like the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *ESPN.com*, or *Sports Illustrated* for example, I am terribly annoyed by their constant reliance on actual reporting. The way those other so-called "reporters" talk to players and coaches after games is quite grating. I prefer the way *Newswire* writers report on Xavier basketball, avoiding talking to those frighteningly tall players and authority-figure coaches, and providing merely unsubstantiated opinions and bland facts drawn largely from other sources. Why should *the Newswire* offer anything more than dull, AP-style reports? That isn't their job. I'm glad the sports writers are not doing any actual work, just like I'm ecstatic to see reviews of CDs released six months ago. If this is what happens when there are budget troubles, then I hope they never make any money! *The Newswire* needs more ranting, less reporting.

—Ryan Williamson
Class of '05

Dear Mr. Williamson,

In order to quell rumors presented in this letter, I would like to take this space to address a few of the issues so that readers do not become disenfranchised with the *Newswire*.

In press conferences after each game where the media is given opportunities to ask players and coaches questions, in most cases a *Newswire* writer is there to participate.

The *Newswire* has had someone at every men's basketball game, home and away, with the exception of Ball State, since February 2003.

The sports section is in contact with the Sports Information Department, which handles media to player/coach relations, on a weekly basis.

All sources for men's basketball games are stat sheets distributed to all media at events. We use and cite other sources for sporting events to which we do not send a writer.

—Dan Cox
Editor-in-Chief

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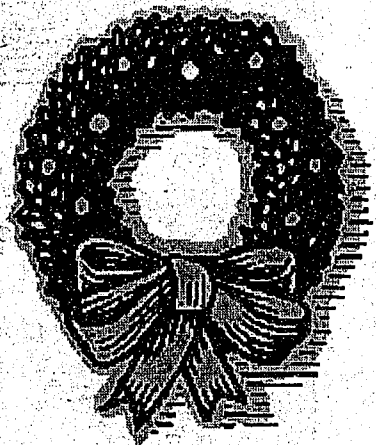
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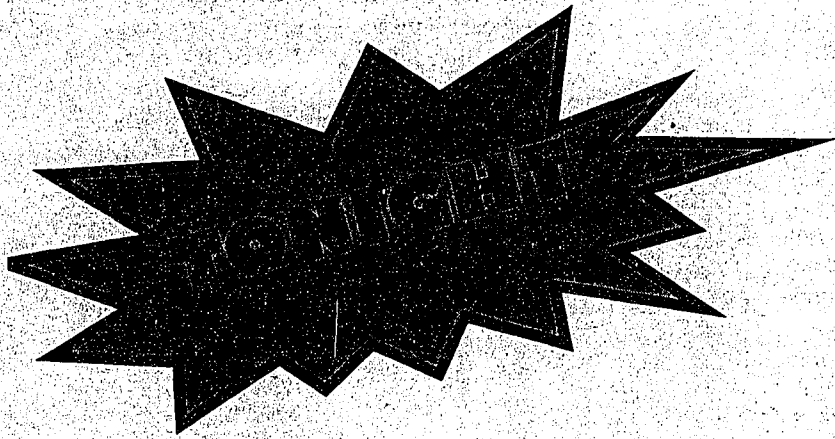
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Derek Blank, Editor

SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



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Dave Gilmore, Editor
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And the hits just keep on coming

The Atlantic 10 Conference named sophomore Tara Boothe, the 2003 Atlantic 10 Rookie-of-the-Year, Player-of-the-Week.

Boothe, a Freshman All-American last season, averaged 23.3 points on 72.2 percent shooting while also grabbing nine rebounds per game in three contests last week.

The Highlands High School graduate has scored 20-plus points in Xavier's last four games. She recorded her first double-double of this season with 23 points and 12 rebounds in Xavier's 72-35 win over Central Michigan on Saturday.

A-10 recognizes swimmer

Freshman Krystel Kooyman was named Atlantic 10 Women's Swimming and Diving Rookie Performer-of-the-Week on Monday after a strong performance at the Giant Eagle Zippy Invitational last weekend.

Kooyman set a school and meet record in winning the 200 Breaststroke with a time of 2:21.33. She also won the 100 Breaststroke in a season-best time of 1:06.70, just .04 seconds shy of another school record.

Baseball coaches to conduct workshop

The Xavier baseball coaching staff will host its annual Hitter's Workshop beginning in January for boys ages 14-18.

Veteran Musketeer head coach John Morrey and his staff will instruct boys on all parts of hitting on four consecutive Sundays from Jan. 18 to Feb. 8 in Xavier's Schmidt Fieldhouse.

For more information on the Hitter's Workshop or to register, visit the Xavier Baseball Camp page at www.xavier.edu/athletics.

Sarajlija named tournament MVP

Senior Aida Sarajlija was one of three Xavier players to score a career-high in points as she was named Provident Bank Xavier Invitational MVP.

Sarajlija scored a career-high 23 points on the strength of 10-for-15 shooting from the field. The Bosnian native also recorded 10 rebounds, giving Sarajlija her second career double-double.

Women's hoops takes home Provident Invitational title

BY DAVE GILMORE
From Sports Info reports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior Aida Sarajlija was one of three Xavier players to score a career-high in points as she was named Provident Bank Xavier Invitational MVP after Xavier won the tournament title with a 78-40 win over High Point on Sunday at Cintas Center.

Sarajlija scored a career-high 23 points on the strength of 10-for-15 shooting from the field. The Bosnian native also recorded 10 rebounds, giving her the second double-double of her career.

Sophomore Mandy Geryak added a career-high 16 points and junior Nikki Wells tied her career-high with 11 points.

Sophomore Tara Boothe, who earlier in the day was named Atlantic 10 Player-of-the-Week, had four steals to lead Xavier's defensive effort.

The Musketeers got out to an early 5-0 lead until High Point closed to within one at the 15:37 mark, but XU quickly responded and had the lead up to 10 at 19:9 just over seven minutes into the game.

By halftime, Xavier led 41-23.

Xavier hit nine three-pointers in the game while shooting 43.9 percent overall from the field.

High Point was led by Katie O'Dell and Katie Ralls who scored 11 points each. The Panthers committed 32 turnovers in the game.

The Musketeers will return to action on Wednesday evening as they travel to Lexington for a showdown with the Kentucky Wildcats. Xavier's next home game will be on Dec. 18 when Lipscomb comes to the Cintas Center.

Boothe, a Freshman All-American last season, had 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead Xavier to a 72-35 win over Central Michigan in the opening game of the Provident Bank Xavier Invitational on Saturday at the Cintas Center.

With two and a half minutes left in the first half, the Musketeers had built the advantage to 30, going up 39-9.

At halftime, Xavier led 41-17.

Boothe had 15 of her points and nine of her rebounds in the first half. For the game, she was 8-for-11 from the field, making her 17-for-20 over the last two games.

The double-double is the first of this season and the 11th of Boothe's career.

Freshman Suntana Granderson, in her first substantial court appearance of the year, added nine points for Xavier.

Sarajlija contributed 12 points and seven rebounds, while freshman Michele Miller added seven points.

For the game, Xavier shot 44.6 percent from the field (25-56), including a 60 percent (15-25) performance in the first half.

The Musketeers held Central Michigan to just 19 percent (11-58) shooting for the game. CMU committed 22 turnovers, 14 of which came on Xavier steals.

SWIMMING

Freshman Krystel Kooyman won the 200 Breaststroke in meet- and school-record time to lead a solid final day performance for the Musketeer women's and men's swimming teams at the Giant Eagle Zippy Invitational on Saturday.

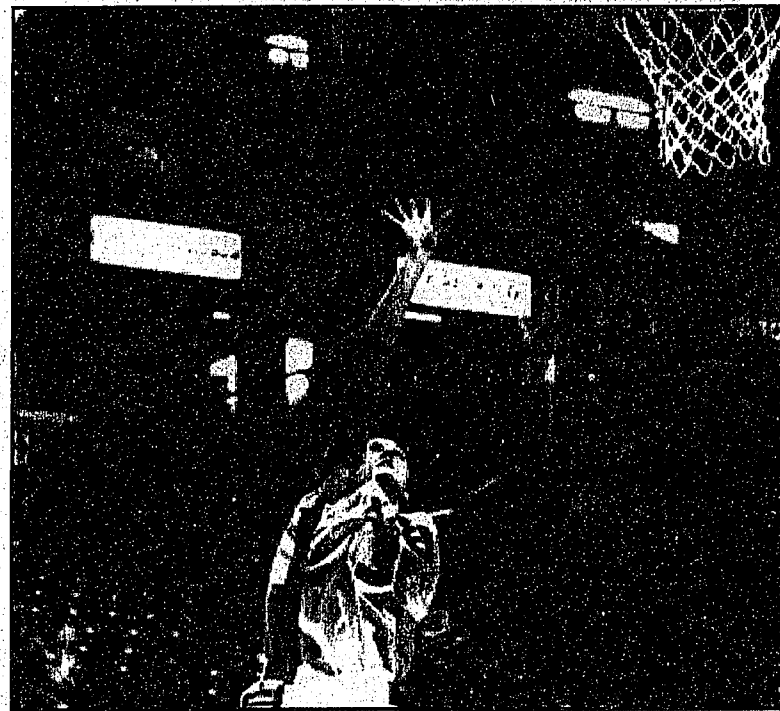
The women finished eighth in the 11-team field while the men placed fifth among eight teams in the annual event hosted by the University of Akron.

Kooyman won the 200 Breaststroke in 2:21.33, breaking the old Xavier record by over three seconds.

Senior Angie Hinrichs also tied for first in the 100 Freestyle.

Three other Musketeer women joined Kooyman in the finals of the 200 Breaststroke. Junior Becky Faust placed fifth, followed by senior Danielle Miller in 10th place and junior Sarah Blush in 12th.

Xavier's men were led by a sec-



Senior Aida Sarajlija was named MVP of the Provident Bank Xavier Invitational, logging a career-high 23 points against High Point.

ond-place finish from sophomore Kyle Hawley in the 200 Butterfly.

The Musketeers also benefitted from a fourth-place finish in the 200 Backstroke from sophomore David Janszen. He was joined in the finals by his older brother, senior John Janszen (10th place) and freshman Mike Thallemer (19th place).

Sophomore Matthew Normile and junior Matt Young rounded out the top-10 finisher for XU. Normile was fifth in the 1650 Freestyle while Young was also fifth in the 200 Breaststroke.

The Xavier men's and women's swimming teams will be idle for the next month before taking on Ohio Wesleyan and Case Western Reserve in Delaware, Ohio on Jan. 16.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Xavier University men's cross country team finished the season with a 71-57 record, including a second-place finish out of a field of 12 teams in the Cross Country Only Championship in late September.

It was only the fifth time since the program began in 1981 that the men's team posted a winning sea-

son record. The women's team recorded only the third winning season since the program began in 1985 with a 70-64 record, which included a second-place finish in the Cross Country Only Championships.

At the awards banquet on Nov. 23, first-year head coach Steve Nester named junior Drew LaMaster the Most Valuable Player on the men's side, and senior Jennie Illig on the women's team.

Greg Dickman and Kelly Sraj were both named Most Improved Runner on their respective teams.

Michael Raidt of Louisville Trinity (Ky.), and David Ford of Franklin Academy (Tenn.), committed during the early signing period to run for the Musketeers next year.

Raidt led his team to a third-place effort in the Kentucky State Cross Country Championships in running a 16:34 and placing 18th.

Ford helped lead his team to its fourth-straight Tennessee State Cross Country title last month in a time of 17:04. He consistently runs a 5k in under 17 minutes.

The track season begins on March 19.

What's On Tap?

Wednesday

* Women's basketball
at Kentucky
7 p.m.

Saturday

* Men's basketball
at Mississippi State
8 p.m.

Sunday

San Francisco 49ers vs.
Cincinnati Bengals

All home games are in bold

Home basketball games are played in the Cintas Center

GAME OF THE WEEK

Men's Basketball at
Mississippi State
Saturday 8 p.m.
Humphrey Coliseum

The Bulldogs are undefeated so far this season while the Musketeers hope to rebound from a crushing overtime loss at the hands of Indiana.

This game is important for both teams as they look to solidify their positions in the SEC.

BRIEFS

Jimmy Dillon, Editor
Divisions Desk: 745-2878
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Contemporary Arts Center exhibits

The Contemporary Arts Center will present a bold first season of exhibitions in its new home, the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art. The first exhibitions include:

Moshekwa Langa

Moshekwa Langa, an expatriate South African installation artist, brings together recent videos, photographs, works on paper and scatter-art pieces that broaden his investigations beyond the personal to the larger questions raised by globalization.

Polly Apfelbaum

"Polly Apfelbaum: A Retrospective" is a collection of works from Apfelbaum, a New York-based artist. Her self-described "fallen portraits" combine elements of painting, sculpture and installation art.

'80s political art

"Crimes and Misdemeanors: Politics in U.S. Art of the 1980s" is a group exhibition of the work of 55 artists which surveys the socially- and politically-oriented artistic production of the period.

Admission to the Contemporary Arts Center is \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for students with ID. For more information, call 345-8415 or visit www.contemporaryartscenter.com.

Writings from the Goddesses Within

In conjunction with the Goddesses of Mayumi Oda art exhibit at the YWCA Women's Art Gallery, the YWCA and writers from the Women Writing for (a) Change community share words and visual art inspired by ancient and contemporary goddesses.

The event begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the YWCA Women's Art Gallery and includes the readings from local women writers and a wine and cheese reception.

Call 241-7090 for more information.

Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum continues to offer free admission to the general public.

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday. It is also open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

More information can be found at www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

Educational, not epic

DIRECTOR ED ZWICK'S LATEST FILM INFORMS VIEWERS YET FAILS TO CONNECT THEM TO SAMURAI WAYS

BY JIM GIMP
Contributing Writer

This year's brave production, "The Last Samurai," strives to become a classic of the historical epic pedigree.

On the one hand, the film works in terms of its beauty, simple storytelling on a complex subject and technical delivery. On the other hand, it lacks a strong emotional connection with its audience and does not allow viewers to experience the sheer depth of its subject matter: the end of a people and a way of life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

Q: Who's man enough to take my honor? A: Nicole Kidman.

In the midst of America's trade deals with Japan, Algren is offered a handsome salary for his services to train and lead the newly established Japanese Imperial Army against the Samurai rebellion on the developing railroad system.

Amid the bloodshed, Algren is captured by the Samurai, led by Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe, "T.R.Y"). After his battle wounds heal, Algren learns that he has been kept alive to help the Samurai learn more about "the enemy."

What ensues is a period of discovery, soul searching, healing and redemption for Algren as he learns the way of the Samurai, largely due to Katsumoto's benevolence.

Over time, Algren internalizes the plight of the Samurai, finding their situation similar to the destruction of the Native Americans.

He decides to side with them in their revolt against the encroaching Western influence and to send a message to the emperor whose laws are destroying Japan's sacred traditions and heritage.

Cruise fits the look and physicality of his role as Algren, both as a Union soldier and as a Samurai. Unfortunately, his ability to convey deep, heartfelt emotion is underdeveloped in the film.

While the western cast, featuring Billy Connolly ("White Oleander"), is sound, it is the Japanese

cast that deserves much praise, especially Algren's strict yet fair sword fighting teacher Ujio, played by Hiroyuki Sanada, the charming young Samurai Nobutada, played by Shin Koyamada, and the graceful heroine Taka, played by Koyuki.

Edward Zwick, director of various historical and war films including "Glory" and "Legends of the Fall," is proficient in the director's chair for the "Last Samurai," but not at his best.

While Zwick does an excellent job with the quiet romance between Taka and Algren, he falters with unimaginative action sequences that are a significant part of the movie.

They certainly are intense, yet they do not provide a visceral punch to make them worth remembering. The large scale battles, despite the blazing editing and piercing sound of clashing swords and exploding cannons, feel typical for a war scene, failing to present a fresh perspective.

The true challenge that Zwick does not handle well is relaying the profound force of the film's center story, the end of the Samurai.

"The Last Samurai" fails to challenge the viewer to feel that the world has lost something precious, a people who lived by the ideals that we struggle to achieve every day: righteousness, truth and honor.

Nevertheless, it is worth experiencing for the cultural enrichment and a comprehensive look at a fascinating part of Asian history.

The Info

"The Last Samurai"

Newswire Official Grade: B

Starring: Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe, Timothy Spall, Billy Connolly, Tony Goldwyn, Hiroyuki Sanada, Koyuki

Rating: Rated R for strong violence and battle sequences

The story begins with Captain Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise, "Jerry Maguire"), a despondent Civil War hero and alcoholic who is reeling over what he considers the unjust slaughtering of Native Americans during the Western Expansion era.

In Your Ear



Jay-Z
The Black Album
(Def Jam)

GRADE: A+

The reigning and departing king of rap?

A lot of people download music because they say they don't want to buy a whole CD for one or two great songs, and to them I say: stop looking at a computer screen and buy Jay-Z's *The Black Album* because out of the 14 songs on the album, 14 of them are great.

The thing with most Jay-Z albums is that they're usually about 75 percent greatness. Then it seems he throws in a few filler songs, or in the case of his last release, *The Blueprint 2*, a whole second CD full of fillers, which ruins the potential of the album.

The songs heard on this, his 12th album in seven years, can be grouped into two categories: serious songs talking about why he's giving up the rap game and fun songs to dance to in the club.

For the fun songs, he's got The Neptunes and Timbaland to help him out, who produced the songs "Change Clothes" and "Dirt off Your Shoulder," respectively. They're a bit lighter than some of his personal songs, but he raps so smoothly and well during them that it's hard to miss the serious material.

The remaining songs are the most introspective and, consequently, the strongest on the album. The two songs where Jay really cuts loose fall into this second category.

The first one, which was produced by Eminem, is called "Moment of Clarity." In it, Jay-Z admits to leaving his artistic ideas behind to make more money. He follows that statement up with his explanation, "We as rappers must decide what's most important/ And I can't give back to the poor if I'm one of them/ So I got rich and gave back/ To me that's the win, win."

The last song, on his last album, is aptly-titled "My 1st Song." This song alone puts Jay-Z above every other living rapper out there. He flows so quickly and dances around words and phrases so well that the short song is over faster than you would expect.

Jay doesn't write anything down, and when he enters the booth listening to a beat, he's spitting out the first words and phrases that come to him. Don't ask me how he manages to stay fresh and original in each album, but he does.

It's hard to say if Jay-Z will remain retired, or be back in a couple

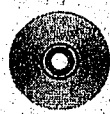
of weeks with another album like *Master P*, but he's constantly stood out as the leader of this new Tupac and Notorious B.I.G.-inspired generation of rappers.

With the exception of some misguided Eminem fans, nobody questions who the king of rap is and it's hard to say how his absence will affect the industry. If Jay-Z wanted to leave us with something that would keep us talking about him for years to come, he couldn't have done any better than this album.

- Dan Cox
Editor-in-Chief

Dan's Top 5 Jay-Z Albums:

1. "Reasonable Doubt"
2. "Black Album"
3. "Vol. 2, Hard Knock Life"
4. "MTV Unplugged"
5. "Dynasty"



New Releases



The following discs are due for release on or before Dec. 9 ...

Ryan Adams *Love Is Hell, Part 2* (EP) (Lost Highway) ... Nick Cannon *Nick Cannon* (Nick/Jive) ... Easley *Marvelous Thing* (EP) (Record Collector) ... Hoobastank *The Reason* (Island) ... Musiq Soulstar (Def Soul) ... The Offspring *Splinter* (Columbia) ... Pitch Black *Law* (Motown) ... Westside Connection *Terrorist Threats* (Priority/Capitol)

... all dates are tentative.

Live Wires

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Alkaline Trio
@ Bogart's

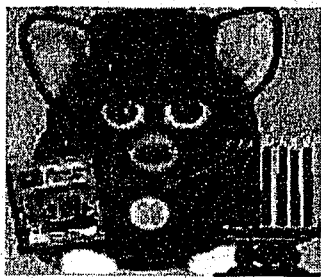
Friday, Dec. 12
Over the Rhine
@ Taft Theatre

Thursday, Dec. 11
Something Corporate
@ Bogart's

Sunday, Dec. 14
Los Straitjackets
@ Southgate House

WEDNESDAY

December 10



Granted that this is the last Calendar City before we all go on break, I wanted to wish everyone some holiday cheer before we parted ways. But since it is an all-inclusive holiday break and not just Christmas break, I wanted to make sure I included all of the holidays I possibly could this week.

The Heifer International Christmas Sale will be going down from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the GSC today. Come for the sale, or come for the people trying to drink a gallon of milk in an hour without puking just outside the G-Spot at 1:30 p.m. Sometimes something presents itself when any joke about it doesn't live up to the event itself. This is one of those times. By the way, the G-Spot is open 24 hours during exam week.

Speaking of international, the International Student Society Coffee Hour will be taking place at 3:30 p.m. in the Faces of the World Lounge to celebrate all those ESL students who have not yet had their country celebrated with caffeine and camaraderie.

Speaking of English as a Second Language, come join **Kwanzaa Furbie** at the "Spiritual and Social Journey of Bernard LaFayette" at 7 p.m. in Schiff.

Calendar City

By John Houser. To place an item in the calendar, mail to newswire-calendar@xavier.edu or ML 2129.

Maybe if you try hard enough, you can teach him to say, "matunda ya kwanza" over and over and over and over and over...

THURSDAY

December 11



Is your closest experience to South Asian culture ordering Thai food, and even then you can't get up the nerve to order anything except the Pad Thai everytime? If so, you could learn something at the South Asian Society's first event at 6 p.m. in the Romero Lounge.

Did you not go to class all semester and need a miracle to pass that final? Then head to the Blessing of the Brains at 7 p.m. in Bellarmine Chapel. If you've just given up hope all together, throw your books away and head to the showing of S.W.A.T. in the GSC Theatre at 11 p.m. Don't believe in praying for good grades or watching bad movies? Then join your many brothers and sisters who feel the same and take comfort in the wise words of Mr. Costanza, "There's Festivus for the rest of us."

FRIDAY

December 12



As everyone should know by now, Moses, aka **Ben-Hur**, invented Chanukah so that the Jews could get more presents than all of those Christians with their mere 24-hour-long Christmas. What everyone might not know is that it was Moses bellowing to the people from the stage of Mt. Sinai that started another historic ritual which is known today as XU Idol II. Those dedicated to carrying on the tradition will be at the Food Court at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

December 13

If you would like to celebrate winter solstice, what is a better way to do it than by participating in the winter ritual of sitting around playing video games all day? The Super Nintendo MarioKart Tournament is taking place from 2 to 4 p.m. at Gallagher. Drivers will be motivated by the fact that if they lose, our friend Jack Frost here will eat their soul.



If you would prefer to eat something rather than have your soul eaten, free pizza is being served after you pay \$3 to go see Toolbox tonight at 9 p.m. So if you can't wait until the **Don't Tell Anna** show on Wednesday for quality comedy, be there or be eaten by Jack Frost.

SUNDAY

December 14



Today is National Children's Memorial Day, and besides Trick Daddy, nobody loves the kids more than our man of the day and reason for the season, Jesus of Nazareth. Head to Mass today and you get to light the pink candle on the Advent Wreath. The pink candle was Jesus' favorite, but he was always too much of a tough guy to admit it.

Today, Nostradamus turns 499. If Nos here knows what he's talk-

ing about, we might be meeting up with Jesus again sooner than you think.

MONDAY

December 15



"Out with the old, in with the new," right New Year Baby 1998? Let the beginning of the end commence and start taking those finals today. If you get discouraged, just look at this hideous excuse for a baby and smile because you didn't look 40 years of age at your birth.

TUESDAY

December 16

Today Santa's good friend William "The Fridge" Perry turns 40. St. Nick and Perry go way back to when they were a promising rap duo in the '80s. Unfortunately, Santa got left behind when William gained star status with the smash hit "Super Bowl Shuffle." Now Claus has to resort to breaking and entering just to find sustenance. 'Twas a sad day in hip-hop. That's it. Happy Holidays!



"The White House" for rent. 2003/04 school years. Newly restored, clean 2-family, 5-7 bedrooms, perfect for TV show "Friends" concept. 10-minute walk to campus, laundry, off-street parking, driveway, big yard, Internet access, 2nd/3rd floor available now. 1st floor available January '04. Call 731-2950.

"The White House Annex" for rent 2003/04 school years. Single family, 5-7 bedrooms, immediate occupancy, perfect for TV show "Friends" concept. Off-street parking, driveway, 20-minute walk to campus. Central A/C, internet access. Call 731-2950.

House for rent. Large 8 bedroom, 3 baths, fully equipped kitchen, parking spaces, short walk to campus. Lovely mansion on 991 Dana Avenue. Washer and dryer. Heat included, \$350 per student. To see, call Jo Ellen at 321-0043 or 241-8421.

Apartment for rent. Short-term lease only. January-April 2004. Across from XU on Dana. Call for more information 616-9000.

For Sale

For Sale. A Zappy battery operated scooter. \$700 new in 12/2000. Like new — used less than 6 times. Asking \$250. Call 573-9687.

Travel

Spring Break — sign up with Student Express and get FREE roundtrip airline tickets to over 15 International destinations — including Aruba, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Caribbean hot spots and more. Why go with anyone else? Limited offer — call now. Commission rep positions also available. 1-800-787-3787 www.studentexpress.com.

Spring Break 2004. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator. Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, Florida. Biggest parties, best clubs. Call for discounts: 800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

Spring Break Panama City Beach, FL. Book early and save \$\$\$! World's longest keg party, free beer all week! Live band and DJ. Wet t-shirt, hard body and Venus Swimwear contest. Suites up to 12 people, 3 pools, huge beachfront hot tub, lazy river ride, water slide, jet skis, parasail. Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort. 1-800-488-8828 www.sandpiperbeacon.com

Classifieds

For classifieds info call Mary Beth at 745-3561 or e-mail her at newswire-classifieds@xavier.edu

Help Wanted

Receptionist/assistant needed part-time evenings for a private club in Hyde Park. Call 513-533-5200 for more information.

Immediate need! Experienced nannies and babysitters to work full/part time, temp/occ. Make great \$\$\$! Bed Bugs and Tattle Tales. Call 734-1428.

STUDENTS! TOO BUSY FOR A JOB? Students from campuses all over the country are finding time for this one. Work while you attend classes or on weekends. Requires no time away from your schedule or off-campus routine. Call 513-751-5077 today or email bmatthews0626@fuse.net

For Rent

Looking for a place to live for the spring? I am looking for a roommate while mine is off studying abroad! Nice apartment on Dana right across from the Joseph Building. Call Rachel or Sara at 751-0316.

1 bedroom renovated apartment, beautiful and large with ceramic tile, wall to wall carpet, A/C, heat paid, off-street parking. Walk to campus, safe street. Call Adam 608-0887.

Visit XUrents.com. Houses and apartments of every size close to campus.



Want to have a wonderful holiday and happy new year? Advertise in The Xavier Newswire! Call Mary Beth at 745-3561 for more information. Happy Holidays and have a safe break from the Advertising department!

Large 3 bedroom in 2 family home 3757 Spencer Ave, Norwood OH, 45212 (corner of Cleneay and Spencer. 2 floors, 2 bedrooms on one floor, 1 bedroom on other. Living room, dining room, kitchen and bath. Laundry in basement, balcony, deck, garages available. Great location, nice neighborhood, walk to class. Available June 1, 2004. Rent \$895.00 per month. Contact Brian 513-503-2065. 513-745-4831 days, 513-731-0699 evenings.

Norwood. Remodeled 1 bedroom apartment, close to campus, large closets, character, \$425 including heat/water. Call 314-7099 for more information.

Apartments available. 2 Bedroom, 3 Bedroom, and a 2 Bedroom big enough for 2 or 3 people. All 3 apartments are located at 974 Dana.

Norwood — must see! Large deluxe 2 bedroom in duplex. Living room, dining room, fully equipped kitchen on 1st floor; 2 bedrooms, full bath on 2nd, full basement with W/D hookup, covered porch rear deck, close to campus, hardwood floors. Won't last! \$675 per month, available 12/15/03. 314-7099.